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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
SOUTHERN DIVISION**

EDWARD NDIBA, individually and on
behalf of all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

vs.

INGRAM MICRO, INC.,

Defendant.

Case No. 2:25-cv-06479

CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

Plaintiff Edward Ndiba, by and through his counsel, brings this Class Action Complaint against Defendant Ingram Micro, Inc. (“Defendant”) individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated, and allege, upon personal knowledge as to his own actions and his counsel’s investigations, and upon information and belief as to all other matters, as follows:

I. NATURE OF THE ACTION

1. Plaintiff Edward Ndiba (“Plaintiff”) brings this class action against Defendant Ingram Micro, Inc. (“Defendant”) for its failure to properly secure and safeguard sensitive information that Plaintiff and Class Members, as customers and

1 employees of Defendant, entrusted to it (collectively, “Personal Information” or
2 “PII and PHI”).

3 2. Defendant is a technology company providing businesses with a
4 B2B platform and other financial services.¹

5 3. Plaintiff and Class Members are current and former customers and
6 employees of Defendant.

7 4. As a condition of receiving its services and/or employment,
8 Defendant requires that its customers and employees, including Plaintiff and Class
9 Members, entrust it with highly sensitive Personal Information.

10 5. Plaintiff and Class Members provided their Personal Information to
11 Defendant with the reasonable expectation, and on the mutual understanding, that
12 Defendant would comply with its obligations to keep that information confidential
13 and secure from unauthorized access.

14 6. Defendant derives a substantial economic benefit from collecting
15 Plaintiff’s and Class Members’ Personal Information. Without it, Defendant could
16 not perform its services.

17 7. Defendant had a duty to adopt reasonable measures to protect the
18 Personal Information of Plaintiff and Class Members from involuntary disclosure
19 to third parties and to audit, monitor, and verify the integrity of its cybersecurity.
20 Defendant has a legal duty to keep consumer’s Personal Information safe and
21 confidential.

22 8. By obtaining, collecting, using, and deriving a benefit from
23 Plaintiff’s and Class Members’ Personal Information, Defendant assumed legal
24 and equitable duties to ensure the protection of that Personal Information, and it
25 knew or should have known that it was thus responsible for protecting Plaintiff’s
26 and Class Members’ Personal Information from disclosure.

27 _____
28 ¹ See <https://www.ingrammicro.com/en-us/company/about-us>

1 9. On or about July 5, 2025, Defendant issued a press release stating it
2 discovered the deployment of ransomware on its internal systems (the “Data
3 Breach”). Indeed, Defendant suffered a ransomware attack perpetrated by the
4 SafePay ransomware group, which is a fast-rising ransomware group that surfaced
5 in 2024.²

6 10. In fact, the attacker accessed and acquired files containing
7 unencrypted Personal Information of Plaintiff and Class Members, including their
8 Social Security numbers and medical information.

9 11. To make matters even worse, Defendant has yet to inform Plaintiff
10 and Class Members of the Data Breach.

11 12. Plaintiff brings this action on behalf of all persons whose Personal
12 Information was compromised as a result of Defendant’s failure to: (i) adequately
13 protect the Personal Information of Plaintiff and Class Members; (ii) warn Plaintiff
14 and Class Members of Defendant’s inadequate information security practices; and
15 (iii) effectively secure hardware and software containing protected Personal
16 Information using reasonable and effective security procedures free of
17 vulnerabilities and incidents. Defendant’s conduct amounts to, among other things,
18 negligence and violates federal and state statutes.

19 13. Plaintiff and Class Members have suffered injury as a result of
20 Defendant’s conduct. These injuries include: (i) lost or diminished value of
21 Personal Information; (ii) out-of-pocket expenses associated with the prevention,
22 detection, and recovery from identity theft, tax fraud, and/or unauthorized use of
23 their Personal Information; (iii) lost opportunity costs associated with attempting
24 to mitigate the actual consequences of the Data Breach, including but not limited
25 to lost time; (iv) the disclosure of their Personal Information; and (v) the continued
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27 ² See [https://www.msspalert.com/news/ingram-micro-working-through-ransomware-attack-by-](https://www.msspalert.com/news/ingram-micro-working-through-ransomware-attack-by-safepay-group)
28 [safepay-group](https://www.msspalert.com/news/ingram-micro-working-through-ransomware-attack-by-safepay-group)

1 and certainly increased risk to their Personal Information, which: (a) remains
2 unencrypted and available for unauthorized third parties to access and abuse; and
3 (b) may remain backed up in Defendant's possession and is subject to further
4 unauthorized disclosures so long as Defendant fails to undertake appropriate and
5 adequate measures to protect the Personal Information.

6 14. Defendant disregarded the rights of Plaintiff and Class Members by
7 intentionally, willfully, recklessly, or negligently failing to take and implement
8 adequate and reasonable measures to ensure that the Personal Information of
9 Plaintiff and Class Members was safeguarded; failing to take available steps to
10 prevent an unauthorized disclosure of data; and failing to follow applicable,
11 required and appropriate protocols, policies and procedures regarding the
12 encryption of data, even for internal use. As a result, the Personal Information of
13 Plaintiff and Class Members was compromised through disclosure to an
14 unauthorized third party. Plaintiff and Class Members have a continuing interest
15 in ensuring that their information is and remains safe, and they are entitled to
16 injunctive and other equitable relief.

17 II. PARTIES

18 15. Plaintiff Edward Ndiba is, and at all times relevant, has been a
19 resident and citizen of North Richland Hills, Texas. Plaintiff Ndiba has no intention
20 of moving to a different state in the immediate future.

21 16. Defendant is a California-based corporation with its principal place
22 of business at 3351 Michelson Drive, Suite 100, Irvine, California 92612.

23 III. JURISDICTION AND VENUE

24 17. This Court has diversity jurisdiction over this action under the Class
25 Action Fairness Act, 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d), because this is a class action involving
26 more than 100 class members, the amount in controversy exceeds \$5,000,000,
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1 exclusive of interest and costs, and many members of the class are citizens of states
2 different from Defendant, including the Plaintiff.

3 18. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendant because its
4 principal place of business is in this District, it regularly transacts business in this
5 District, and many Class Members reside in this District.

6 19. Venue as to Defendant is proper in this judicial district under 28
7 U.S.C § 1391(b)(1) because Defendant's principal place of business is in this
8 District and many of Defendant's acts complained of herein occurred within this
9 District.

10 IV. FACTUAL BACKGROUND

11 A. The Data Breach

12 20. On July 5, 2025, Defendant issued its first public statement
13 concerning the Data Breach by stating that "Ingram Micro recently identified
14 ransomware on certain of its internal systems."³

15 21. As a result of the Data Breach, Plaintiff's and Class Members'
16 Personal Information has been exposed to cybercriminals. Indeed, the ransomware
17 group, SafePay, has claimed the responsibility for the Data Breach and is "known
18 for double-extortion attacks that combine file encryption with data theft and
19 extortion threats...."⁴

20 22. Defendant had obligations to Plaintiff and to Class Members to
21 safeguard their Personal Information and to protect that Personal Information from
22 unauthorized access and disclosure, including by ensuring that it had information
23 security practices and protocols in place that would protect that Personal
24 Information. Indeed, Plaintiff and Class Members provided their Personal
25 Information to Defendant with the reasonable expectation, and mutual

26 ³ See <https://www.ingrammicro.com/en-us/information>

27 ⁴ See <https://www.msspalert.com/news/ingram-micro-working-through-ransomware-attack-by-safepay-group>
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1 understanding, that Defendant, and anyone Defendant contracted with, would
2 comply with its obligations to keep such information confidential and secure from
3 unauthorized access. Defendant's data security obligations were particularly
4 important given the substantial increase in cyberattacks and/or data breaches of
5 major companies before the Data Breach.

6 23. Defendant also had obligations to promptly notify Plaintiff and
7 Class Members of the Data Breach in a timely manner, which it has clearly failed
8 to do considering Plaintiff and Class Members have not received any sort of notice
9 of the Data Breach.

10 24. Indeed, Defendant has failed to uphold its duty and promise to
11 safeguard Plaintiff's and Class Members' Personal Information.

12 **B. Plaintiff Expected Defendant to Keep His Information Secure.**

13 **Plaintiff Edward Ndiba's Experience**

14 25. Plaintiff Ndiba provided his Personal Information, at Defendant's
15 request, when he was hired by Defendant.

16 26. Plaintiff Ndiba is very careful about sharing his sensitive Personal
17 Information. Plaintiff Ndiba has never knowingly transmitted unencrypted
18 sensitive Personal Information over the internet or any other unsecured source.

19 27. As a result of the Data Breach, Plaintiff Ndiba made reasonable
20 efforts to mitigate the impact of the Data Breach after he discovered the Data
21 Breach, including but not limited to researching the Data Breach, reviewing credit
22 reports, and financial account statements for any indications of actual or attempted
23 identity theft or fraud.

24 28. Plaintiff Ndiba has spent multiple hours and will continue to spend
25 valuable time for the remainder of his life, that he otherwise would have spent on
26 other activities, including but not limited to work and/or recreation. Since Plaintiff
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1 Ndiba became aware of the Data Breach, he has spent hours trying to fix issues
2 stemming from the Data Breach.

3 29. Plaintiff Ndiba suffered actual injury from having his Personal
4 Information compromised as a result of the Data Breach including, but not limited
5 to (a) damage to and diminution in the value of his Personal Information, a form
6 of property that Defendant maintained belonging to Plaintiff Ndiba; (b) violation
7 of his privacy rights; (c) the theft of his Personal Information; and (d) present,
8 imminent and impending injury arising from the increased risk of identity theft and
9 fraud.

10 30. As a result of the Data Breach, Plaintiff Ndiba anticipates spending
11 considerable time and money on an ongoing basis to try to mitigate and address
12 harm caused by the Data Breach. In addition, Plaintiff Ndiba will continue to be at
13 present, imminent, and continued increased risk of identity theft and fraud for the
14 remainder of his life.

15 **C. FTC Security Guidelines Concerning PII**

16 31. The Federal Trade Commission (“FTC”) has established security
17 guidelines and recommendations to help entities protect PII and reduce the
18 likelihood of data breaches.

19 32. Section 5 of the FTC Act, 15 U.S.C. § 45, prohibits “unfair . . .
20 practices in or affecting commerce,” including, as interpreted by the FTC, failing
21 to use reasonable measures to protect PII by companies like Defendant. Several
22 publications by the FTC outline the importance of implementing reasonable
23 security systems to protect data. The FTC has made clear that protecting sensitive
24 customer data should factor into virtually all business decisions.

25 33. In 2016, the FTC provided updated security guidelines in a
26 publication titled Protecting Personal Information: A Guide for Business. Under
27 these guidelines, companies should protect consumer information they keep; limit
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1 the sensitive consumer information they keep; encrypt sensitive information sent
2 to third parties or stored on computer networks; identify and understand network
3 vulnerabilities; regularly run up-to-date anti-malware programs; and pay particular
4 attention to the security of web applications—the software used to inform visitors
5 to a company’s website and to retrieve information from the visitors.

6 34. The FTC recommends that businesses do not maintain payment card
7 information beyond the time needed to process a transaction; restrict employee
8 access to sensitive customer information; require strong passwords be used by
9 employees with access to sensitive customer information; apply security measures
10 that have proven successful in the industry; and verify that third parties with access
11 to sensitive information use reasonable security measures.

12 35. The FTC also recommends that companies use an intrusion
13 detection system to immediately expose a data breach; monitor incoming traffic
14 for suspicious activity that indicates a hacker is trying to penetrate the system;
15 monitor for the transmission of large amounts of data from the system; and develop
16 a plan to respond effectively to a data breach in the event one occurs.

17 36. The FTC has brought several actions to enforce Section 5 of the FTC
18 Act. According to its website:

19 When companies tell consumers they will safeguard their personal
20 information, the FTC can and does take law enforcement action to make sure
21 that companies live up these promises. The FTC has brought legal actions
22 against organizations that have violated consumers’ privacy rights or misled
23 them by failing to maintain security for sensitive consumer information or
24 caused substantial consumer injury. In many of these cases, the FTC has
25 charged the defendants with violating Section 5 of the FTC Act, which bars
26 unfair and deceptive acts and practices in or affecting commerce. In addition
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1 to the FTC Act, the agency also enforces other federal laws relating to
2 consumers' privacy and security.⁵

3 37. Defendant was aware or should have been aware of its obligations
4 to protect its customers' and employees' Personal Information, including both PII
5 and PHI, and privacy before and during the Data Breach yet failed to take
6 reasonable steps to protect customers and employees from unauthorized access.
7 Among other violations, Defendant violated its obligations under Section 5 of the
8 FTC Act.

9 **D. Defendant Was on Notice of Data Threats and Knew a Data**
10 **Breach was Foreseeable.**

11 38. Defendant was on notice that companies maintaining large amounts
12 of Personal Information during their regular course of business are prime targets
13 for criminals looking to gain unauthorized access to sensitive and valuable
14 information, such as the type of data at issue in this case.

15 39. At all relevant times, Defendant knew, or should have known, that the
16 Personal Information that it collected was a target for malicious actors. Despite
17 such knowledge, and well-publicized cyberattacks on similar companies,
18 Defendant failed to implement and maintain reasonable and appropriate data
19 privacy and security measures to protect Plaintiff's and Class Members' Personal
20 Information from cyber-attacks that Defendant should have anticipated and
21 guarded against.

22 40. In light of recent high profile data breaches, including Microsoft
23 (250 million records, December 2019), T-Mobile (110 million records, August
24 2021), Wattpad (268 million records, June 2020), Facebook (267 million users,
25 April 2020), Estee Lauder (440 million records, January 2020), Whisper (900

26 ⁵ See Fed. Trade Comm'n, *Privacy and Security Enforcement*, [https://www.ftc.gov/news-](https://www.ftc.gov/news-events/topics/protecting-consumer-privacy-security/privacy-security-enforcement)
27 [events/topics/protecting-consumer-privacy-security/privacy-security-enforcement](https://www.ftc.gov/news-events/topics/protecting-consumer-privacy-security/privacy-security-enforcement)
28 (last visited December 14, 2023).

1 million records, March 2020), and Advanced Info Service (8.3 billion records, May
2 2020), Defendant knew or should have known that its electronic records would be
3 targeted by cybercriminals.

4 41. Indeed, cyberattacks have become so notorious that the FBI and
5 U.S. Secret Service have issued a warning to potential targets so they are aware of,
6 take appropriate measures to prepare for, and are able to thwart such an attack.

7 **E. The Data Breach Harmed Plaintiff and Class Members**

8 42. Plaintiff and Class Members have suffered and will continue to suffer
9 harm because of the Data Breach.

10 43. Plaintiff and Class Members face a present and imminent and
11 substantial risk of injury of identity theft and related cyber crimes due to the Data
12 Breach for their respective lifetimes. Once data is stolen, malicious actors will
13 either exploit the data for profit themselves or sell the data on the dark web to
14 someone who intends to exploit the data for profit. Hackers would not incur the
15 time and effort to steal PII and PHI—thereby risking prosecution by listing it for
16 sale on the dark web—if the PII and PHI was not valuable to malicious actors.

17 44. The dark web helps ensure users' privacy by effectively hiding
18 server or IP details from the public. Users need special software to access the dark
19 web. Most websites on the dark web are not directly accessible via traditional
20 searches on common search engines and are therefore accessible only by users who
21 know the addresses for those websites.

22 45. Malicious actors use PII and PHI to gain access to Class Members'
23 digital life, including bank accounts, social media, and credit card details. During
24 that process, hackers can harvest other sensitive data from the victim's accounts,
25 including personal information of family, friends, and colleagues.

26 46. Consumers are injured every time their data is stolen and placed on
27 the dark web, even if they have been victims of previous data breaches. Not only
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1 is the likelihood of identity theft increased, but the dark web is not like Google or
2 eBay. It is comprised of multiple discrete repositories of stolen information. Each
3 data breach puts victims at risk of having their information uploaded to different
4 dark web databases and viewed and used by different criminal actors.

5 47. Indeed, in this case, Plaintiff's and Class Members' Personal
6 Information was stolen by a ransomware group that is notorious for publishing
7 stolen data for sale on the dark web.

8 48. The data security community agrees that the Personal Information
9 compromised in the Data Breach greatly increases Class Members' risk of identity
10 theft and fraud.

11 49. As Justin Fier, senior vice president for AI security company
12 Darktrace, observed following a recent data breach at T-Mobile, "[t]here are
13 dozens of ways that the information that was stolen could be weaponized." He
14 added that such a massive treasure trove of consumer profiles could be of use to
15 everyone from nation-state hackers to criminal syndicates.⁶

16 50. Criminals can use the Personal Information that Defendant lost to
17 target Class Members for imposter scams, a type of fraud initiated by a person who
18 pretends to be someone the victim can trust in order to steal sensitive data or
19 money.⁷

20 51. The Personal Information accessed in the Data Breach therefore has
21 significant value to the hackers that have already sold or attempted to sell that
22 information and may do so again.

23 52. Malicious actors can also use Class Members' Personal Information
24 to open new financial accounts, open new utility accounts, file fraudulent tax

25 ⁶ See Bree Fowler, *T-Mobile Gets Hacked Again: Is the Un-Carrier Un-Safe?*,
26 <https://www.cnet.com/tech/services-and-software/t-mobile-gets-hacked-again-is-the-un-carrier-un-safe/> (last visited December 14, 2023).

27 ⁷ See Fed. Trade Comms'n, *How to Avoid Imposter Scams*,
28 <https://consumer.ftc.gov/features/imposter-scams> (last visited December 14, 2023).

1 returns, obtain government benefits, obtain government IDs, or create “synthetic
2 identities.”

3 53. As established above, the Personal Information stolen in the Data
4 Breach is also very valuable to Defendant. Defendant collects, retains, and uses
5 this information to increase its profits. Defendant’s customers and employees both
6 value the privacy of this information and expect Defendant to allocate enough
7 resources to ensure it is adequately protected. The decision of customers to engage
8 with the Defendant, and of employees to work for them, is contingent on the
9 assumption that the Defendant employs reasonable security measures for Personal
10 Information. Had they been aware of any shortcomings in these measures,
11 customers would have reconsidered their transactions, or the prices paid for the
12 Defendant's goods and services, while employees would have reevaluated their
13 employment choices. Both customers and employees reasonably expect that their
14 payments or wages incorporate the costs of implementing such security measures,
15 as part of the overall commitment to protecting their Personal Information and
16 upholding their privacy.

17 54. Indeed, “[f]irms are now able to attain significant market valuations
18 by employing business models predicated on the successful use of personal data
19 within the existing legal and regulatory frameworks.”⁸ American companies are
20 estimated to have spent over \$19 billion on acquiring personal data of consumers
21 in 2018.⁹ It is so valuable to identity thieves that once Personal Information has
22 been disclosed, criminals often trade it on the “cyber black-market” or the “dark
23 web” for many years.

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25 ⁸ See OECD, *Exploring the Economics of Personal Data: A Survey of Methodologies for*
26 *Measuring Monetary Value*, OECD DIGITAL ECONOMY PAPERS, No. 220, Apr. 2, 2013,
<https://doi.org/10.1787/5k486qtxldmq-en> (last visited December 14, 2023).

27 ⁹ See IAB Data Center of Excellence, *U.S. Firms to Spend Nearly \$19.2 Billion on Third-Party*
28 *Audience Data and Data-Use Solutions in 2018, Up 17.5% from 2017*, IAB.COM (Dec. 5, 2018),
<https://www.iab.com/news/2018-state-of-data-report/> (last visited December 14, 2023).

1 55. As a result of their real and significant value, identity thieves and
2 other cyber criminals have openly posted credit card numbers, Social Security
3 numbers, PII, PHI, and other sensitive information directly on various Internet
4 websites, making the information publicly available. This information from
5 various breaches, including the information exposed in the Data Breach, can be
6 readily aggregated, and it can become more valuable to thieves and more damaging
7 to victims.

8 56. The Personal Information accessed in the Data Breach is also very
9 valuable to Plaintiff and Class Members. Consumers often exchange personal
10 information for goods and services. For example, consumers often exchange their
11 personal information for access to wifi in places like airports and coffee shops.
12 Likewise, consumers often trade their names and email addresses for special
13 discounts (e.g., sign-up coupons exchanged for email addresses). Consumers use
14 their unique and valuable Personal Information to access the financial sector,
15 including when obtaining a mortgage, credit card, or business loan. As a result of
16 the Data Breach, Plaintiff and Class Members' Personal Information has been
17 compromised and lost significant value.

18 57. Consumers place a high value on the privacy of that data, as they
19 should. Researchers shed light on how much consumers value their data privacy—
20 and the amount is considerable. Indeed, studies confirm that “when privacy
21 information is made more salient and accessible, some consumers are willing to
22 pay a premium to purchase from privacy protective websites.”¹⁰

23 58. Given these facts, any company that transacts business with a
24 consumer and then compromises the privacy of consumers' Personal Information
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26 ¹⁰ See Janice Y. Tsai et al., *The Effect of Online Privacy Information on Purchasing Behavior,*
27 *An Experimental Study*, 22(2) INFO. SYS. RES. 254 (June 2011)
28 <https://www.jstor.org/stable/23015560> (last visited December 14, 2023).

1 has thus deprived that consumer of the full monetary value of the consumer's
2 transaction with the company.

3 59. Due to the immutable nature of the personal information impacted
4 here, Plaintiff and Class Members will face a risk of injury due to the Data Breach
5 for their respective lifetimes. Malicious actors often wait months or years to use
6 the personal information obtained in data breaches, as victims often become
7 complacent and less diligent in monitoring their accounts after a significant period
8 has passed. These bad actors will also re-use stolen personal information, meaning
9 individuals can be the victim of several cyber crimes stemming from a single data
10 breach. Finally, there is often significant lag time between when a person suffers
11 harm due to theft of their Personal Information and when they discover the harm.
12 For example, victims rarely know that certain accounts have been opened in their
13 name until contacted by collections agencies. Plaintiff and Class Members will
14 therefore need to continuously monitor their accounts for years to ensure their
15 Personal Information obtained in the Data Breach is not used to harm them.

16 60. Even when reimbursed for money stolen due to a data breach,
17 consumers are not made whole because the reimbursement fails to compensate for
18 the significant time and money required to repair the impact of the fraud.

19 61. Victims of identity theft also experience harm beyond economic
20 effects. According to a 2018 study by the Identity Theft Resource Center, 32% of
21 identity theft victims experienced negative effects at work (either with their boss
22 or coworkers) and 8% experienced negative effects at school (either with school
23 officials or other students).

24 62. The U.S. Government Accountability Office likewise determined
25 that "stolen data may be held for up to a year or more before being used to commit
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1 identity theft,” and that “once stolen data have been sold or posted on the Web,
2 fraudulent use of that information may continue for years.”¹¹

3 63. Plaintiff and Class Members have failed to receive the value of the
4 Defendant’s services for which they paid.

5 **F. Defendant Failed to Take Reasonable Steps to Protect its**
6 **Customers’ and Employees’ Personal Information.**

7 64. Defendant requires its customers and employees to provide a
8 significant amount of highly personal and confidential Personal Information to
9 purchase or utilize its services. Defendant collects, stores, and uses this data to
10 maximize profits while failing to encrypt or protect it properly.

11 65. Defendant has legal duties to protect its customers’ and employees’
12 Personal Information by implementing reasonable security features. This duty is
13 further defined by federal and state guidelines and laws, including the FTC Act, as
14 well as industry norms.

15 66. Defendant breached its duties by failing to implement reasonable
16 safeguards to ensure Plaintiff’s and Class Members’ Personal Information was
17 adequately protected. As a direct and proximate result of this breach of duty, the
18 Data Breach occurred, and Plaintiff and Class Members were harmed.

19 67. Defendant could have prevented this Data Breach by properly
20 securing and encrypting the systems containing the Personal Information of
21 Plaintiff and Class Members.

22 68. Defendant’s negligence in safeguarding the Personal Information of
23 Plaintiff and Class Members is exacerbated by the repeated warnings and alerts
24 directed to companies like Defendant to protect and secure sensitive data they
25 possess.

26 ¹¹ See GAO, *Personal Information Data Breaches are Frequent, but Evidence of Resulting*
27 *Identity Theft Is Limited; However, the Full Extent is Unknown*,
28 <https://www.gao.gov/assets/gao-07-737.pdf> (last visited December 14, 2023).

69. Experts have identified several best practices that businesses like Defendant should implement at a minimum, including, but not limited to educating all employees; requiring strong passwords; multi-layer security, including firewalls, anti-virus, and anti-malware software; encryption, making data unreadable without a key; multi-factor authentication; backup data; and limiting which employees can access sensitive data.

70. Other best cybersecurity practices include installing appropriate malware detection software; monitoring and limiting the network ports; protecting web browsers and email management systems; setting up network systems such as firewalls, switches, and routers; monitoring and protection of physical security systems; protection against any possible communication system; and training staff regarding critical points.

71. The Data Breach was a reasonably foreseeable consequence of Defendant's failure to ensure that it used adequate security systems. Defendant certainly has the resources to ensure that it implemented reasonable security systems to prevent or limit damage from data breaches. Even so, Defendant failed to properly invest in that data security. Had Defendant ensured that it implemented reasonable data security systems and procedures (*i.e.*, followed guidelines from industry experts and state and federal governments), then it likely could have prevented hackers from accessing its customers' and employees' Personal Information.

72. Defendant's failure to ensure that it implemented reasonable security systems has caused Plaintiff and Class Members to suffer and continue to suffer harm that adversely impact Plaintiff and Class Members economically, emotionally, and/or socially. As discussed above, Plaintiff and Class Members now face a substantial, imminent, and ongoing threat of identity theft, scams, and resulting harm. These individuals now must spend significant time and money to

continuously monitor their accounts and credit scores and diligently sift out phishing communications to limit potential adverse effects of the Data Breach, regardless of whether any Class Member ultimately falls victim to identity theft.

73. In sum, Plaintiff and Class Members were injured as follows: (i) theft of their Personal Information and the resulting loss of privacy rights in that information; (ii) improper disclosure of their Personal Information; (iii) diminution in value of their Personal Information; (iv) the certain, ongoing, and imminent threat of fraud and identity theft, including the economic and non-economic impacts that flow therefrom; (v) ascertainable out-of-pocket expenses and the value of their time allocated to fixing or mitigating the effects of the Data Breach; and/or (vi) nominal damages.

74. Plaintiff and Class Members therefore have a significant and cognizable interest in obtaining injunctive and equitable relief (in addition to any monetary damages) that protects them from these long-term threats. Accordingly, this action represents the enforcement of an important right affecting the public interest and will confer a significant benefit on the general public or a large class of persons.

V. CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS

75. Plaintiff brings this class action on behalf of a Nationwide Class according to Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Rules 23(b)(2), 23(b)(3), and 23(b)(4). The Nationwide Class that Plaintiffs seek to represent is defined as follows:

All citizens of the United States whose Personal Information was compromised and/or stolen in the Data Breach Defendant discovered on July 5, 2025 (the “Class”).

1 76. Excluded from the Class are the following individuals and/or
2 entities: Defendant and Defendant's parents, subsidiaries, affiliates, officers and
3 directors, and any entity in which Defendant has a controlling interest; all
4 individuals who make a timely election to be excluded from this proceeding using
5 the correct protocol for opting out; all individuals who are California citizens
6 and/or residents; and all judges assigned to hear any aspect of this litigation, as
7 well as their immediate family members.

8 77. Plaintiff reserves the right to modify or amend the definition of the
9 proposed Class before the Court determines whether certification is appropriate.

10 78. Numerosity: Class Members are so numerous that joinder of all
11 members is impracticable, if not completely impossible. The exact number of Class
12 Members is unknown at this point but is apparently identifiable within Defendant's
13 records.

14 79. Commonality and Predominance: Common questions of law and
15 fact exist as to all Class Members and predominate over any questions affecting
16 solely individual Class Members. Among the questions of law and fact common to
17 Class Members that predominate over questions which may affect individual Class
18 members, including the following:

- 19 a. Whether Defendant owed a duty to Plaintiff and Class
20 Members to exercise due care in collecting, storing,
21 safeguarding and/or obtaining their Personal Information;
22 b. Whether Defendant breached that duty;
23 c. Whether Plaintiff's and Class Members' Personal
24 Information was accessed and/or viewed by one or more
25 unauthorized persons in the Data Breach alleged above;
26 d. When and how Defendant should have learned and actually
27 learned of the Data Breach;
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- e. Whether Defendant adequately, promptly, and accurately informed Plaintiff and Class Members that their Personal Information had been compromised;
- f. Whether Defendant violated the law by failing to promptly notify Plaintiff and Class Members that their Personal Information had been compromised;
- g. Whether Defendant's response to the Data Breach was adequate;
- h. Whether Defendant failed to implement and maintain reasonable security procedures and practices appropriate to the nature and scope of the information compromised in the Data Breach;
- i. Whether Defendant adequately addressed and fixed the vulnerabilities which permitted the Data Breach to occur;
- j. Whether Defendant engaged in unfair, unlawful, or deceptive practices by failing to safeguard the Personal Information of Plaintiff and Class Members;
- k. Whether an implied contract existed between Defendant and Plaintiff and Class Members;
- l. Whether Defendant breached its implied contract with Plaintiff and Class Members;
- m. Whether Plaintiff and Class Members are entitled to actual damages, statutory damages, and/or nominal damages as a result of Defendant's wrongful conduct;
- n. Whether Plaintiff and Class Members are entitled to restitution as a result of Defendant's wrongful conduct;

- o. Whether Plaintiff and Class Members are entitled to equitable relief;
- p. Whether Plaintiff and Class Members are entitled to injunctive relief to redress the imminent and currently ongoing harm faced as a result of the Data Breach.
- q. Whether Defendant was unjustly enriched;
- r. Whether Plaintiff and Class Members are entitled to actual and/or statutory damages;
- s. Whether Plaintiff and Class Members are entitled to additional credit or identity monitoring and monetary relief; and
- t. Whether Plaintiff and Class Members are entitled to equitable relief, including injunctive relief, restitution, disgorgement, and/or the establishment of a constructive trust.

80. Typicality: Plaintiff's claims are typical of those of the other Class Members because Plaintiff, like every other member, was exposed to virtually identical conduct and now suffers from the same violations of the law as other Class Members.

81. Policies Generally Applicable to Class Members: This class action is also appropriate for certification because Defendant acted or refused to act on grounds generally applicable to Class Members, thereby requiring the Court's imposition of uniform relief to ensure compatible standards of conduct toward Class Members and making final injunctive relief appropriate with respect to Class Members as a whole. Defendant's policies challenged herein apply to and affect Class Members uniformly and Plaintiff's challenge of these policies hinges on

1 Defendant's conduct with respect to Class Members each as a whole, not on facts
2 or law applicable only to Plaintiff.

3 82. Adequacy: Plaintiff will fairly and adequately represent and protect
4 the interests of Class Members in that he has no disabling conflicts of interest that
5 would be antagonistic to those of the other Class Members. Plaintiff seeks no relief
6 that is antagonistic or adverse to Class Members and the infringement of the rights
7 and the damages they have suffered are typical of other Class Members. Plaintiff
8 has retained counsel experienced in complex class action litigation, and Plaintiff
9 intends to prosecute this action vigorously.

10 83. Superiority and Manageability: Class litigation is an appropriate
11 method for fair and efficient adjudication of the claims involved. Class action
12 treatment is superior to all other available methods for the fair and efficient
13 adjudication of the controversy alleged herein; it will permit a large number of
14 Class Members to prosecute their common claims in a single forum
15 simultaneously, efficiently, and without the unnecessary duplication of evidence,
16 effort, and expense that hundreds of individual actions would require. Class action
17 treatment will permit the adjudication of relatively modest claims by certain Class
18 Members, who could not individually afford to litigate a complex claim against a
19 large corporation, like Defendant. Further, even for those Class Members who
20 could afford to litigate such a claim, it would still be economically impractical and
21 impose a burden on the courts.

22 84. The nature of this action and the nature of laws available to Plaintiff
23 and Class Members make the use of the class action device a particularly efficient
24 and appropriate procedure to afford relief to Plaintiff and Class Members for the
25 wrongs alleged because Defendant would necessarily gain an unconscionable
26 advantage since it would be able to exploit and overwhelm the limited resources
27 of each individual Class Member with superior financial and legal resources; the
28

costs of individual suits could unreasonably consume the amounts that would be recovered; proof of a common course of conduct to which Plaintiff were exposed is representative of that experienced by Class Members and will establish the right of each Class Member to recover on the cause of action alleged; and individual actions would create a risk of inconsistent results and would be unnecessary and duplicative of this litigation.

85. The litigation of the claims brought herein is manageable. Defendant's uniform conduct, the consistent provisions of the relevant laws, and the ascertainable identities of Class Members demonstrates that there would be no significant manageability problems with prosecuting this lawsuit as a class action.

86. Adequate notice can be given to Class Members directly using information maintained in Defendant's records.

87. Unless a Class-wide injunction is issued, Defendant may continue in its failure to properly secure the Personal Information of Class Members, Defendant may continue to refuse to provide proper notification to Class Members regarding the Data Breach, and Defendant may continue to act unlawfully as set forth in this Complaint.

VI. CAUSES OF ACTION

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

Negligence

(On Behalf of Plaintiff and Class Members)

88. Plaintiff repeats and realleges every allegation set forth in the preceding paragraphs.

89. Defendant requires its customers and employees, including Plaintiff and Class Members, to submit non-public Personal Information in the ordinary course of providing its services.

1 90. Defendant gathered, stored, and shared the Personal Information of
2 Plaintiff and Class Members, who are the customers and employees of Defendant,
3 as an integral part of its business activities. This was crucial to both providing
4 services and soliciting customers, which affect commerce.

5 91. Plaintiff and Class Members entrusted Defendant with their Personal
6 Information, directly or indirectly, with the understanding that Defendant would
7 safeguard their information.

8 92. Defendant had full knowledge of the sensitivity of the Personal
9 Information and the types of harm that Plaintiff and Class Members could and
10 would suffer if the Personal Information were wrongfully disclosed.

11 93. By assuming the responsibility to collect and store this data, and in
12 fact doing so, and sharing it and using it for commercial gain, Defendant had a duty
13 of care to use reasonable means to secure and to prevent disclosure of the
14 information, and to safeguard the information from theft. Defendant's duty
15 included a responsibility to exercise due diligence in selecting any third-party
16 application and to audit, monitor, and ensure the integrity of its third-party
17 application's systems and practices and to give prompt notice to those affected in
18 the case of a data breach.

19 94. Defendant had a duty to employ reasonable security measures under
20 Section 5 of the Federal Trade Commission Act, 15 U.S.C. § 45, which prohibits
21 "unfair . . . practices in or affecting commerce," including, as interpreted and
22 enforced by the FTC, the unfair practice of failing to use reasonable measures to
23 protect confidential data.

24 95. Defendant owed a duty of care to Plaintiff and Class Members to
25 provide data security consistent with industry standards and other requirements
26 discussed herein, and to ensure that its systems and networks, and the personnel
27 responsible for them, adequately protected the Personal Information.
28

1 96. Defendant's duty of care to use reasonable security measures arose as
2 a result of the special relationship that existed between Defendant and Plaintiff and
3 Class Members. That special relationship arose because Plaintiff and Class
4 Members entrusted Defendant with their confidential Personal Information, a
5 necessary part of being customers and employees of Defendant.

6 97. Defendant's duty to use reasonable care in protecting confidential
7 data arose not only as a result of the statutes and regulations described above, but
8 also because Defendant is bound by industry standards to protect confidential
9 Personal Information.

10 98. Defendant was subject to an "independent duty," untethered to any
11 contract between Defendant and Plaintiff or Class Members.

12 99. Defendant also had a duty to exercise appropriate clearinghouse
13 practices to remove former customers' and employees' Personal Information when
14 it was no longer required to retain pursuant to regulations.

15 100. Moreover, Defendant had a duty to promptly and adequately notify
16 Plaintiff and Class Members of the Data Breach.

17 101. Defendant had and continues to have a duty to adequately disclose
18 that the Personal Information of Plaintiff and Class Members within its possession
19 might have been compromised, how it was compromised, and precisely the types
20 of data that were compromised and when. Such notice was and is necessary to
21 allow Plaintiff and Class Members to take steps to prevent, mitigate, and repair any
22 identity theft and the fraudulent use of their Personal Information by third parties.

23 102. Defendant breached its duties, pursuant to the FTC Act and other
24 applicable standards, and thus was negligent, by failing to use reasonable measures
25 to protect Plaintiff's and Class Members' Personal Information. The specific
26 negligent acts and omissions committed by Defendant include, but are not limited
27 to, the following:
28

- a. Failing to adopt, implement, and maintain adequate security measures to safeguard Plaintiff's and Class Members' Personal Information;
- b. Failing to adequately monitor the security of its networks and systems;
- c. Failing to audit, monitor, or ensure the integrity of its data security practices;
- d. Allowing unauthorized access to Plaintiff's and Class Members' Personal Information;
- e. Failing to detect in a timely manner that Plaintiff's and Class Members' Personal Information had been compromised;
- f. Failing to remove former customers' and employees' Personal Information it was no longer required to retain pursuant to regulations; and
- g. Failing to timely and adequately notify Plaintiff and Class Members about the Data Breach's occurrence and scope, so that they could take appropriate steps to mitigate the potential for identity theft and other damages.

103. Defendant violated Section 5 of the FTC Act by failing to use reasonable measures to protect Personal Information and not complying with applicable industry standards, as described in detail herein. Defendant's conduct was particularly unreasonable given the nature and amount of Personal Information it obtained and stored and the foreseeable consequences of the immense damages that would result to Plaintiff and Class Members.

104. Plaintiff and Class Members were within the class of persons the Federal Trade Commission Act were intended to protect and the type of harm that

1 resulted from the Data Breach was the type of harm these statutes were intended to
2 guard against.

3 105. Defendant's violation of Section 5 of the FTC Act constitutes
4 negligence.

5 106. The FTC has pursued enforcement actions against businesses, which,
6 as a result of their failure to employ reasonable data security measures and avoid
7 unfair and deceptive practices, caused the same harm as that suffered by Plaintiff
8 and Class Members.

9 107. A breach of security, unauthorized access, and resulting injury to
10 Plaintiff and Class Members was reasonably foreseeable, particularly in light of
11 Defendant's inadequate security practices.

12 108. It was foreseeable that Defendant's failure to use reasonable measures
13 to protect Plaintiff's and Class Members' Personal Information would result in
14 injury to Plaintiff and Class Members. Further, the breach of security was
15 reasonably foreseeable given the known high frequency of cyberattacks and data
16 breaches in Defendant's industry.

17 109. Defendant has full knowledge of the sensitivity of the Personal
18 Information and the types of harm that Plaintiff and Class Members could and
19 would suffer if the Personal Information were wrongfully disclosed.

20 110. Plaintiff and Class Members were the foreseeable and probable
21 victims of any inadequate security practices and procedures. Defendant knew or
22 should have known of the inherent risks in collecting and storing the Personal
23 Information of Plaintiff and Class Members, the critical importance of providing
24 adequate security of that Personal Information, and the necessity for encrypting
25 Personal Information stored on its systems.

1 111. It was therefore foreseeable that the failure to adequately safeguard
2 Plaintiff's and Class Members' Personal Information would result in one or more
3 types of injuries to Plaintiff and Class Members.

4 112. Plaintiff and Class Members had no ability to protect their Personal
5 Information that was in, and possibly remains in, Defendant's and its possession.

6 113. Defendant was in a position to protect against the harm suffered by
7 Plaintiff and Class Members as a result of the Data Breach. However, Plaintiff and
8 Class Members had no ability to protect their Personal Information in Defendant's
9 possession.

10 114. Defendant's duty extended to protecting Plaintiff and Class Members
11 from the risk of foreseeable criminal conduct of third parties, which has been
12 recognized in situations where the actor's own conduct or misconduct exposes
13 another to the risk or defeats protections put in place to guard against the risk, or
14 where the parties are in a special relationship. *See* Restatement (Second) of Torts
15 § 302B. Numerous courts and legislatures have also recognized the existence of a
16 specific duty to reasonably safeguard personal information.

17 115. But for Defendant's wrongful and negligent breach of duties owed to
18 Plaintiff and Class Members, the Personal Information of Plaintiff and Class
19 Members would not have been compromised.

20 116. There is a close causal connection between Defendant's failure to
21 implement security measures to protect the Personal Information of Plaintiff and
22 Class Members and the harm, or risk of imminent harm, suffered by Plaintiff and
23 Class Members. The Personal Information of Plaintiff and Class Members was lost
24 and accessed as the proximate result of Defendant's failure to exercise reasonable
25 care in safeguarding such Personal Information by adopting, implementing, and
26 maintaining appropriate security measures.

1 117. Defendant's conduct, as alleged herein, allowed it to gain a
2 competitive advantage over companies offering the same or similar services
3 because, rather than properly implement data security protocols as required by
4 statute and industry standards, Defendant diverted money intended to apply to data
5 security towards its own profit. Defendant's conduct, and the unfair advantage
6 realized thereby, creates a race to the bottom by encouraging companies to divert
7 funds intended for data security towards profits in order to remain competitive. The
8 end effect is that both consumers and the marketplace in general are harmed
9 through the widespread adoption of substandard data security practices and the
10 concomitantly increased risk of cyberattacks and fraud and identity theft (which
11 disrupt the lives of victims and impose a burden on the state to investigate and
12 prevent criminal activity).

13 118. By collecting and taking custody of Plaintiff's and Class Members'
14 Personal Information with full awareness of both the likelihood of a cyberattack
15 targeted to acquire that information and the severe consequences that would result
16 to Plaintiff and Class Members if the confidentiality of the Personal Information
17 was breached, Defendant assumed a special relationship that required it to guard
18 against the foreseeable conduct of a criminal third party. If Defendant had not
19 intervened by taking charge of Plaintiff's and Class Member's Personal
20 Information, no harm would have resulted to Plaintiff and Class Members as a
21 result of the Data Breach.

22 119. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's negligence, Plaintiff
23 and Class Members have suffered and will suffer injury, including but not limited
24 to: (i) invasion of privacy; (ii) lost or diminished value of Personal Information;
25 (iii) lost time and opportunity costs associated with attempting to mitigate the
26 actual consequences of the Data Breach; (iv) loss of benefit of the bargain; and (v)
27 the continued and certainly increased risk to their Personal Information, which: (a)
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1 remains unencrypted and available for unauthorized third parties to access and
2 abuse; and (b) remains backed up in Defendant's possession and is subject to
3 further unauthorized disclosures so long as Defendant fails to undertake
4 appropriate and adequate measures to protect the Personal Information.

5 120. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's negligence, Plaintiff
6 and Class Members have suffered and will continue to suffer other forms of injury
7 and/or harm, including, but not limited to, anxiety, emotional distress, loss of
8 privacy, and other economic and non-economic losses.

9 121. Additionally, as a direct and proximate result of Defendant's
10 negligence, Plaintiff and Class Members have suffered and will suffer the
11 continued risks of exposure of their Personal Information, which remains in
12 Defendant's possession and is subject to further unauthorized disclosures so long
13 as Defendant fails to undertake appropriate and adequate measures to protect the
14 Personal Information in its continued possession.

15 122. Plaintiff and Class Members are entitled to compensatory and
16 consequential damages suffered as a result of the Data Breach.

17 123. Defendant's negligent conduct is ongoing, in that it still holds the
18 Personal Information of Plaintiff and Class Members in an unsafe and insecure
19 manner.

20 124. Plaintiff and Class Members are also entitled to injunctive relief
21 requiring Defendant to: (i) strengthen its data security systems and monitoring
22 procedures; (ii) submit to future annual audits of those systems and monitoring
23 procedures; and (iii) continue to provide adequate credit monitoring to all Class
24 Members.

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION
Breach of Implied Contract
(On Behalf of Plaintiff and Class Members)

125. Plaintiff repeats and realleges every allegation set forth in the preceding paragraphs.

126. Plaintiff and the Class entrusted their Personal Information with Defendant. In doing so, Plaintiff and the Class entered into implied contracts with Defendant by which Defendant agreed to safeguard and protect such information, to keep such information secure and confidential, and to timely and accurately notify Plaintiff and the Class if their data had been breached, compromised, or stolen.

127. Plaintiff and the Class fully performed their obligations under the implied contracts with Defendant.

128. Plaintiff and Class Members provided consideration in support of the implied contracts by providing their money for services and labor for employment.

129. Defendant breached the implied contract with Plaintiff and the Class by failing to safeguard and protect their Personal Information, by failing to delete the Personal Information of Plaintiff and the Class once their relationship ended, and by failing to provide timely and accurate notice to them that the Personal Information was compromised as a result of the Data Breach.

130. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's above-described breach of implied contract, Plaintiff and the Class have suffered, and will continue to suffer, ongoing, imminent, and impending threat of identity theft crimes, fraud, and abuse, resulting in monetary loss an economic harm; actual identify theft crimes, fraud, and abuse resulting in monetary loss and economic harm; loss of the confidentiality of the stolen confidential data; the illegal sale of the compromised data on the dark web; expenses and/or time spent on credit monitoring and identity

1 theft insurance; time spent scrutinizing bank statements, credit card statements, and
2 credit reports; expenses and/or time spent initiating fraud alerts, decreased credit
3 scores and ratings; lost work time; and other economic time that the Plaintiff and
4 Class have not been compensated for.

5 131. As a direct and proximate result of the Defendant's above-described
6 breach of implied contract, Plaintiff and the Class are entitled to recover actual,
7 consequential, and nominal damages.

8 **THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION**

9 **Unjust Enrichment**

10 **(On Behalf of Plaintiff and Class Members)**

11 132. Plaintiff repeats and realleges every allegation set forth in the
12 preceding paragraphs.

13 133. Plaintiff and Class Members, including both customers and
14 employees of Defendant, conferred a monetary benefit on Defendant.

15 134. Specifically, customers paid for services offered by the Defendant
16 and/or its agents, while employees contributed their labor. In both instances, they
17 provided the Defendant with their Personal Information. In exchange, Plaintiff and
18 Class Members should have received from Defendant the services that were the
19 subject of the transaction and should have had their Personal Information protected
20 with adequate data security.

21 135. Defendant knew that Plaintiff and Class Members conferred a
22 benefit upon it and has accepted and retained that benefit by accepting and
23 retaining the Personal Information entrusted to it. Defendant profited from
24 Plaintiff's and Class Members' retained data and used Plaintiff's and Class
25 Members' Personal Information for business purposes.

26 136. Defendant failed to secure Plaintiff's and Class Members' Personal
27 Information and, therefore, did not fully compensate Plaintiff or Class Members
28 for the value that their Personal Information provided.

1 137. Defendant acquired the Personal Information through inequitable
2 record retention as it failed to disclose the inadequate data security practices
3 previously alleged.

4 138. If Plaintiff and Class Members had known that Defendant would not
5 use adequate data security practices, procedures, and protocols to adequately
6 monitor, supervise, and secure their Personal Information, they would not have
7 entrusted their Personal Information with Defendant or obtained services at
8 Defendant.

9 139. Plaintiff and Class Members have no adequate remedy at law.

10 140. Under the circumstances, it would be unjust for Defendant to be
11 permitted to retain any of the benefits that Plaintiff and Class Members conferred
12 upon it.

13 141. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's conduct, Plaintiff
14 and Class Members have suffered and will suffer injury, including but not limited
15 to: (i) invasion of privacy; (ii) lost or diminished value of Personal Information;
16 (iii) lost time and opportunity costs associated with attempting to mitigate the
17 actual consequences of the Data Breach; (iv) loss of benefit of the bargain; (v) and
18 increase in spam calls, texts, and/or emails; and (vi) the continued and certainly
19 increased risk to their Personal Information, which: (a) remains unencrypted and
20 available for unauthorized third parties to access and abuse; and (b) remains backed
21 up in Defendant's possession and is subject to further unauthorized disclosures so
22 long as Defendant fails to undertake appropriate and adequate measures to protect
23 the Personal Information.

24 142. Plaintiff and Class Members are entitled to full refunds, restitution,
25 and/or damages from Defendant and/or an order proportionally disgorging all
26 profits, benefits, and other compensation obtained by Defendant from its wrongful
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1 conduct. This can be accomplished by establishing a constructive trust from which
2 the Plaintiff and Class Members may seek restitution or compensation.

3 143. Plaintiff and Class Members may not have an adequate remedy at
4 law against Defendant, and accordingly, they plead this claim for unjust
5 enrichment in addition to, or in the alternative to, other claims pleaded herein.

6 **FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION**
7 **California Unfair Competition Law**
8 **Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17200, *et seq.***
9 **(On Behalf of Plaintiff and Class Members)**

10 144. Plaintiff repeats and realleges every allegation set forth in the
11 preceding paragraphs.

12 145. Defendant's acts and omissions as alleged herein emanated and
13 directed from California.

14 146. By reason of the conduct alleged herein, Defendant engaged in
15 unlawful and unfair business practices within the meaning of California's Unfair
16 Competition Law ("UCL"), Business and Professions Code § 17200, *et seq.*

17 147. Defendant stored the Personal Information of Plaintiff and Class
18 Members in its computer systems.

19 148. Defendant knew or should have known it did not employ reasonable,
20 industry standard, and appropriate security measures that complied with federal
21 regulations that would have kept Plaintiff's and Class Members' Personal
22 Information secure and prevented the loss or misuse of that Personal Information.

23 149. Defendant did not disclose at any time that Plaintiff's and Class
24 Members' Personal Information was vulnerable to hackers because Defendant's
25 data security measures were inadequate and outdated, and Defendant was the only
26 one in possession of that material information, which Defendant had a duty to
27 disclose.
28

1 **Unlawful Business Practices**

2 150. As noted above, Defendant violated Section 5(a) of the FTC Act
3 (which is a predicate legal violation for this UCL claim) by misrepresenting, by
4 omission, the safety of its computer systems, specifically the security thereof, and
5 its ability to safely store Plaintiff's and Class Members' Personal Information.

6 151. Defendant also violated Section 5(a) of the FTC Act by failing to
7 implement reasonable and appropriate security measures or follow industry
8 standards for data security.

9 152. If Defendant had complied with these legal requirements, Plaintiff
10 and Class Members would not have suffered the damages related to the Data
11 Breach, and consequently from Defendant's failure to timely notify Plaintiff and
12 Class Members of the Data Breach.

13 153. Defendant's acts and omissions as alleged herein were unlawful and
14 in violation of, inter alia, Section 5(a) of the FTC Act.

15 154. Plaintiff and Class Members suffered injury in fact and lost money
16 or property as the result of Defendant's unlawful business practices. In addition,
17 Plaintiff's and Class Members' Personal Information was taken and is in the hands
18 of those who will use it for their own advantage, or is being sold for value, making
19 it clear that the hacked information is of tangible value. Plaintiff and Class
20 Members have also suffered consequential out of pocket losses for procuring credit
21 freeze or protection services, identity theft monitoring, and other expenses relating
22 to identity theft losses or protective measures.

23 **Unfair Business Practices**

24 155. Defendant engaged in unfair business practices under the "balancing
25 test." The harm caused by Defendant's actions and omissions, as described in detail
26 above, greatly outweighs any perceived utility. Indeed, Defendant's failure to
27 follow basic data security protocols and failure to disclose inadequacies of
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1 Defendant's data security cannot be said to have had any utility at all. All of these
2 actions and omissions were clearly injurious to Plaintiff and Class Members,
3 directly causing the harms alleged below.

4 156. Defendant engaged in unfair business practices under the "tethering
5 test." Defendant's actions and omissions, as described in detail above, violated
6 fundamental public policies expressed by the California Legislature. *See, e.g.,* Cal.
7 Civ. Code § 1798.1 ("The Legislature declares that . . . all individuals have a right
8 of privacy in information pertaining to them The increasing use of computers
9 . . . has greatly magnified the potential risk to individual privacy that can occur
10 from the maintenance of personal information."); Cal. Civ. Code § 1798.81.5(a)
11 ("It is the intent of the Legislature to ensure that personal information about
12 California residents is protected."); Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 22578 ("It is the intent
13 of the Legislature that this chapter [including the Online Privacy Protection Act] is
14 a matter of statewide concern."). Defendant's acts and omissions thus amount to a
15 violation of the law.

16 157. Defendant engaged in unfair business practices under the "FTC
17 test." The harm caused by Defendant's actions and omissions, as described in detail
18 above, is substantial in that it affects hundreds of thousands of Class Members and
19 has caused those persons to suffer actual harm. Such harms include a substantial
20 risk of identity theft, disclosure of Plaintiff's and Class Members' Personal
21 Information to third parties without their consent, diminution in value of their
22 Personal Information, consequential out of pocket losses for procuring credit freeze
23 or protection services, identity theft monitoring, and other expenses relating to
24 identity theft losses or protective measures. This harm continues given the fact that
25 Plaintiff's and Class Members' Personal Information remains in Defendant's
26 possession, without adequate protection, and is also in the hands of those who
27 obtained it without their consent. Defendant's actions and omissions violated
28

1 Section 5(a) of the Federal Trade Commission Act. *See* 15 U.S.C. § 45(n) (defining
2 “unfair acts or practices” as those that “cause[] or [are] likely to cause substantial
3 injury to consumers which [are] not reasonably avoidable by consumers
4 themselves and not outweighed by countervailing benefits to consumers or to
5 competition”); *see also, e.g., In re LabMD, Inc.*, FTC Docket No. 9357, FTC File
6 No. 102-3099 (July 28, 2016) (failure to employ reasonable and appropriate
7 measures to secure personal information collected violated §5(a) of FTC Act).

8 158. Plaintiff and Class Members suffered injury in fact and lost money
9 or property as the result of Defendant’s unfair business practices. Plaintiff’s and
10 Class Members’ Personal Information was taken and in the hands of those who
11 will use it for their own advantage, or is being sold for value, making it clear that
12 the hacked information is of tangible value. Plaintiff and Class Members have also
13 suffered consequential out-of-pocket losses for procuring credit freeze or
14 protection services, identity theft monitoring, and other expenses relating to
15 identity theft losses or protective measures.

16 159. As a result of Defendant’s unlawful and unfair business practices in
17 violation of the UCL, Plaintiff and Class Members are entitled to damages,
18 injunctive relief, and reasonable attorneys’ fees and costs.

19 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

20 WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for judgment as follows:

21 A. For an Order certifying this action as a class action and appointing
22 Plaintiff and his counsel to represent Class Members;

23 B. For equitable relief enjoining Defendant from engaging in the
24 wrongful conduct complained of herein pertaining to the misuse and/or disclosure
25 of Plaintiff’s and Class Members’ Personal Information, and from refusing to issue
26 prompt, complete and accurate disclosures to Plaintiff and Class Members;
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1 C. For equitable relief compelling Defendant to utilize appropriate
2 methods and policies with respect to consumer data collection, storage, and safety,
3 and to disclose with specificity the type of Personal Information compromised
4 during the Data Breach;

5 D. For injunctive relief requested by Plaintiff, including but not limited
6 to, injunctive and other equitable relief as is necessary to protect the interests of
7 Plaintiff and Class Members, including but not limited to an order:

- 8 i. Prohibiting Defendant from engaging in the wrongful and
9 unlawful acts described herein;
- 10 ii. Requiring Defendant to protect, including through encryption, all
11 data collected through the course of its business in accordance with
12 all applicable regulations, industry standards, and federal, state, or
13 local laws;
- 14 iii. Requiring Defendant to delete, destroy, and purge the Personal
15 Information of Plaintiff and Class Members unless Defendant can
16 provide to the Court reasonable justification for the retention and
17 use of such information when weighed against the privacy interests
18 of Plaintiff and Class Members;
- 19 iv. Requiring Defendant to implement and maintain a comprehensive
20 Information Security Program designed to protect the
21 confidentiality and integrity of the Personal Information of
22 Plaintiff and Class Members;
- 23 v. Requiring Defendant to provide out-of-pocket expenses associated
24 with the prevention, detection, and recovery from identity theft,
25 tax fraud, and/or unauthorized use of their Personal Information
26 for Plaintiff's and Class Members' respective lifetimes;

- 1 vi. Prohibiting Defendant from maintaining the Personal Information
- 2 of Plaintiff and Class Members on a cloud-based database;
- 3 vii. Requiring Defendant to engage independent third-party security
- 4 auditors/penetration testers as well as internal security personnel
- 5 to conduct testing, including simulated attacks, penetration tests,
- 6 and audits on its systems on a periodic basis, and ordering
- 7 Defendant to promptly correct any problems or issues detected by
- 8 such third-party security auditors;
- 9 viii. Requiring Defendant to engage independent third-party security
- 10 auditors and internal personnel to run automated security
- 11 monitoring;
- 12 ix. Requiring Defendant to audit, test, and train its security personnel
- 13 regarding any new or modified procedures;
- 14 x. Requiring Defendant to segment data by, among other things,
- 15 creating firewalls and access controls so that if one area of its
- 16 network is compromised, hackers cannot gain access to other
- 17 portions of its systems;
- 18 xi. Requiring Defendant to conduct regular database scanning and
- 19 securing checks;
- 20 xii. Requiring Defendant to establish an information security training
- 21 program that includes at least annual information security training
- 22 for all employees, with additional training to be provided as
- 23 appropriate based upon the employees' respective responsibilities
- 24 with handling Personal Information, as well as protecting the
- 25 personal identifying information of Plaintiff and Class Members;
- 26 xiii. Requiring Defendant to routinely and continually conduct internal
- 27 training and education, and on an annual basis to inform internal
- 28

1 security personnel how to identify and contain a breach when it
2 occurs and what to do in response to a breach;

3 xiv. Requiring Defendant to implement a system of tests to assess its
4 employees' knowledge of the education programs discussed in the
5 preceding subparagraphs, as well as randomly and periodically
6 testing employees' compliance with its policies, programs, and
7 systems for protecting Personal Information;

8 xv. Requiring Defendant to implement, maintain, regularly review,
9 and revise as necessary a threat management program designed to
10 appropriately monitor its information networks for threats, both
11 internal and external, and assess whether monitoring tools are
12 appropriately configured, tested, and updated;

13 xvi. Requiring Defendant to meaningfully educate all Class Members
14 about the threats that they face as a result of the loss of their
15 confidential personal identifying information to third parties, as
16 well as the steps affected individuals must take to protect
17 themselves;

18 xvii. Requiring Defendant to implement logging and monitoring
19 programs sufficient to track traffic to and from its servers; and

20 xviii. For a period of 10 years, appointing a qualified and independent
21 third-party assessor to conduct a SOC 2 Type 2 attestation on an
22 annual basis to evaluate Defendant's compliance with the terms of
23 the Court's final judgment, to provide such report to the Court and
24 to counsel for Class Members, and to report any deficiencies with
25 compliance of the Court's final judgment.

26 E. For equitable relief requiring restitution and disgorgement of the
27 revenues wrongfully retained as a result of Defendant's wrongful conduct;
28

1 F. Ordering Defendant to pay for not less than a lifetime of credit
2 monitoring services for Plaintiff and Class Members;

3 G. For an award of actual damages, compensatory damages, statutory
4 damages, and statutory penalties, in an amount to be determined, as allowable by
5 law;

6 H. For an award of punitive damages, as allowable by law;

7 I. For an award of attorneys' fees and costs, and any other expense,
8 including expert witness fees;

9 J. Pre- and post-judgment interest on any amounts awarded; and

10 K. Such other and further relief as this court may deem just and proper.

11 **JURY TRIAL DEMANDED**

12 Plaintiff hereby demands that this matter be tried before a jury.

13 Dated: July 16, 2025

Respectfully submitted,

14 /s/ John J. Nelson

15 John J. Nelson (SBN 317598)

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